

# THE BLOOMFIELD

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BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY

## A REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THIS YEAR'S TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE.

The Meetings Much Livelier Than in Previous Years—A Great Deal of Work Done by the Sub-Committees.

Monday evening, the 29th inst., the annual town meeting will be held, when the members of the Township Committee will render an account of their stewardship for the past fiscal year. The year has been an eventful one, and a brief review of matters that have come up for consideration will perhaps prove of interest to the people generally.

The very first question the Committee had to deal with was of a political nature. The contest in the Third Ward, between T. Winsor Langstroth (Republican) and Edwin A. Rayner (Democrat) resulted in a tie. The Republicans were in the majority in the Committee, and were urged by their political advisers to exercise their prerogative and appoint the Republican candidate as a member of their body. Some of the members felt a little deficiency about carrying partisanship to that extreme, and it was decided to hold a new election, Mr. Rayner (Democrat) was successful.

The moving of the Township Committee's place of meeting from Dodd's Hall to the present place was the next matter of importance. The question was put to a vote, and the Committee was unanimous in favor of moving. The reasons given for it were that the rooms in Dodd's Hall were not easy of access to taxpayers, and their sanitary condition was unpleasant. The change seems to have met with popular approval. Considerable expense was incurred in moving and fitting up new quarters, all of which had to come out of the contingent account. It will no doubt be regarded as a wise expenditure by the majority of taxpayers.

At the very first meeting in the year, the Committee had to deal with the sewerage question. A sub-committee from the Montclair Township Committee came before them and submitted a proposition to join with Orange and Montclair in the construction of an outlet sewer for the use of the three towns. Messrs Rudd and Halfpenny were appointed a sub-committee on sewerage to meet with the Montclair Committee, and in the latter part of May formal application was made to the Orange City Council for the privilege of joining in the outlet sewer. The question was submitted to a public meeting on June 22, and the Committee was directed to cooperate with Orange, Bloomfield's share of the cost not to exceed \$30,000. Early in July Engineers Bassett and Owen were employed to collect data and do other necessary preliminary work in connection with the sewer. They were paid \$500 for their labor. The contract was signed in November. Its terms have been published. Opinions differ as to the wisdom of the Committee's action in making a contract with Orange, on the ground that while this town pays an indefinite pro-rata share of the expense it has no voice in the management of the work, which is vested exclusively in the Orange officials. Work on the outlet sewer has not commenced, owing to threatened litigation with Belleville. The Committee are now engaged in trying to secure an outlet into the river at Woodside.

The Committee held several very exciting meetings in the early part of the year. When the Auditing Committee presented the report of Expert Accountant Stevens, showing the result of his examination of the Collector's books, Mr. Stevens charged Mr. Marr with a shortage of \$1,400. Mr. Marr disputed the correctness of his figures and retained Joseph L. Munn and E. S. Wilde as his counsel to review the report. Mr. Munn reported in January of this year that he had finished the work. It is alleged that he has found a large number of errors in the expert's report, and that the town will be indebted to Mr. Marr to the extent of several hundred dollars. The Auditing Committee will submit the whole matter to the Township Committee, who will decide on the acceptance or rejection of Mr. Stevens's report. The investigation has cost the township about \$1,000.

The wholesale dismissal of the police force of the town was another exciting episode in the history of the year. The police refused to act when called upon by the Chairman of the Committee, and they were summarily dismissed and their places filled with new men, with the exception of James Foster, who, at the request of Mr. Rayner, was retained. The appropriation for police purposes has been largely overdrawn this year.

The work of making a correct survey of the streets of the town and establishing their grades, which has been talked of for several years, was begun by the Committee this year, and the engineers, Messrs. Olinstead & Cady, are at latest reports making satisfactory progress. Several competitors put in bids for the

work. When the first lot of bids were opened it was found that engineers differed widely as to the estimated cost of the work. The bids ranged from \$75 to \$150 per mile. Certain members of the Committee contended that the low-priced man could not do the work at the figure named. New bids were called for, and to the astonishment of the Committee still lower figures were obtained, coming down to about \$53 per mile.

Owing to lack of harmony among the members of the Committee in the commencement of the year some difficulty was experienced in making up the sub-committees, particularly the Committee on road work. Contractors McDowell and O'Rourke were the lowest bidders for the stone-road work, but the sub-committee appointed by the Chairman disagreed in the selection of a contractor. The Committee resigned, a new one was appointed and new bids for the work called for. The first bids were remarkably low. The second call for bids was responded to by only two contractors, and the prices were much higher. The Road Committee was not satisfied with the bids, and they issued a third call for new ones. Contractor Bruett was the lowest bidder this time, but the contract was awarded to Wright & Lindsley.

The distribution of the road money in the several wards provoked lively discussion, particularly the Ridgewood Avenue apportionment, over which Messrs Rayner and Rudd crossed swords.

More stone road has been constructed during the past year than in any previous one. There is much difference of opinion as to its quality, the general impression being that the stone is not of sufficient depth.

The purchase of a road-scraping machine at a cost of about \$350 enabled the Road Committee to do a great deal of work on dirt roads, and more streets received attention than could have been attended to under the old method.

Unanimity has not been a feature in the transactions of this year's Committee. The calling of the roll and recording of the votes very rarely happened in the proceedings of former Committees. During the year just passed the Clerk has had frequent occasion to call the roll, and the Chairman has several times cast the deciding vote. A notable instance of this was in connection with removing the obstruction to the opening of Newark Avenue at Franklin Street.

The question of procuring a better water supply at a lower price has been discussed by the Committee, and preliminary action has been taken. While the existing contract with the Orange Water Company does not expire for some time, the Committee thought it prudent to obtain all the information possible so as to be in a position to make a contract more favorable to the town and to private consumers than the present one.

The usual amount of stone sidewalk has been laid during the year, and there has been an improvement in the quality of material and workmanship. There is a growing feeling of apprehension with regard to the legality of the assessment for sidewalk purposes, and it was feared that some one would carry the matter into court. One citizen claims that he has been petitioning for three years or more for a sidewalk, and has paid taxes enough for sidewalk purposes to more than defray the cost of putting down the walk.

The affairs of the Fire Department have gone along smoothly through the year, with the exception of a little difficulty with Active Hose Company No. 2, occasioned by the refusal of the Chairman of the Fire Committee to recommend the purchase by the town of the company's parade carriage. Two new hose carriages and the securing of a horse for the Chief Engineer's use in attending fires, are among the improvements made during the year.

The Committee are at present engaged in an effort to reduce the cost of street-lighting. The Montclair Gas and Water Company has offered a reduction of about \$1.55 per lamp from present rates, provided a three-years' contract is executed with the company.

Electric light companies have also made very favorable propositions to the Committee.

### A Loan Exhibition.

It is suggested that the ladies of this town arrange a loan exhibition. The town is said to contain works of art and bric-a-brac enough to make a very interesting exhibition. Before the seats are placed in the new Westminster Church that edifice might be used for the purpose, Morristown has just held a very profitable and entertaining affair of this kind. THE CITIZEN suggests as the most suitable object to benefit by the exhibition the Mountainside Hospital.

### Frightened Away.

A burglar gained entrance to the cellar of the residence of John Leiss on Bassinger Street last Tuesday night. He was discovered, but made his escape.

### An Early Morning Fire.

The saloon of Alfred Ernst, at No. 108 Orange Street, was discovered to be on fire at 2.30 o'clock on Wednesday morning. The blaze was evidently started by an incendiary, who had placed paper soaked with kerosene oil under the stoop of the pool room and set fire to it. Officer Foster sounded the alarm from box 69, and the fire department quickly responded, extinguishing the fire without much difficulty. Damage \$200, insured. Active's hose burst three times, and there is much complaint from some of the members on account of the lack of new hose.

About two months ago the saloon was filled with smoke, and upon investigation it was discovered that some one had gone into the cellar and set fire to a bundle of rags and had placed them, together with some straw, directly under the floor of the building. The fire was extinguished. It is thought that Ernst has some enemies who are trying to burn him out.

### How We Will Vote This Spring.

No ballot can be received by the election officers at the spring election unless enclosed in an official envelope. The Township Clerk must furnish official envelopes at the expense of the township. To use any other color than a white paper renders the ballot void.

To make any designating marks on a ballot renders it void.

It is lawful to scratch a name on a ballot, but if a name is substituted it must be written with ink or pencil, black in color. Any other color renders the whole ballot void.

The Township Committee has nothing to do with the printing of the ballots.

Any mark, sign or device put upon the envelope by a voter makes the enclosed ballot void.

No notice of nominations has to be given to the Town Clerk. There is a clear field for independent candidates.

Any one can nominate and any one can print a ticket, but the tickets must be printed in a particular way, as prescribed by law.

Ballots must be printed on plain white paper with black ink after the manner and style prescribed in section 32 of the act of 1890.

### John Grace's Brave Act.

As John Grace, a resident of Fairview, was returning from work on Tuesday evening some boys told him that Freddie Shuldise of Berkeley Avenue had broken through the ice in the canal near the aqueduct, and was drowning. Grace ran to the canal, and plunged in the water, as the ice was not strong enough to bear him. He rescued young Shuldise as he was going down for the third time. Grace deserves a medal from the Humane Society.

### Married in Newark.

George W. Allen of Grove Street was married to Miss Sophie Jockel of Eighth Avenue, Newark, at the residence of the bride on Wednesday night, by the Rev. Chas. A. Cook of the Baptist Church. The bride was handsomely attired in cream cashmere en train. Many handsome and useful presents were received by the happy couple. After a short wedding trip they will reside in Bloomfield.

### He Saw Snakes.

George Creed, who said he had no home, was arrested by Officer Baldwin on Saturday night, charged with disorderly conduct. Creed was on the verge of delirium tremens, and stood on Orange Street cursing and swearing at the top of his voice. He was taken before Justice Post, who committed him to the penitentiary for ninety days.

### Killed Their Chickens.

Two dogs, supposed to have been owned by an Italian, made a tour of the Bowery on Sunday morning and destroyed a number of chickens and ducks belonging to residents of Glenwood Avenue. The owners of the chickens were Theodore Stevens and Luman G. Post. The dogs were finally shot by William Croose.

### Francis Law Elected Vice-President.

Francis Law was elected Vice-President of the Board of Trustees of the Watessing Free Public Library Association on Wednesday night to fill the vacancy caused by the death of M. A. Dailey.

### Ahead of Montclair.

Montclair and Morristown are rivals for hospitalities at the hands of the D. L. & W. R. Co. Morristown has scored one ahead. The aisles of the Morristown express are carpeted.

### Married in Canada.

The parents of Thomas Ferguson of No. 91 Belleville Avenue received a letter from him last week announcing that he had been married to a young lady of Cornwall, Ontario.

Our celebrated \$2 shoe reduced to \$1.75, in all widths and styles, at Shoen-thal's, 312 Glenwood Avenue.—Advt.